

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, we will be hearing a great deal today about the humane and helpful and hopeful research of embryonic stem cells. This is an advance similar to advances in past years of blood transfusions and organ transplants. And to be fair, some patients do not want to take part in blood transfusions and organ transplants for personal reasons.

However, for most Americans, embryonic stem cell research falls well within public ethical standards. It is something that we should be supporting.

We will hear from some today that cord blood and adult stem cells hold promise. Not nearly so much promise as embryonic stem cells. Supporting cord blood research at the expense of supporting embryonic stem cell research is like buying a Schwinn bicycle to travel across the country. Potentially useful, but it is not likely to get us there.

This is something that is well within the public ethical norms. We should be supporting H.R. 810.

#### HONORING THE REVEREND DOUG WESTMORELAND

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, one of the privileges we have from time to time is to stand and recognize those in our community who do good, who improve the quality of life, who make our communities a better place to live.

And today I have that opportunity to recognize Reverend Douglas Westmoreland, the pastor of Tusculum Hills Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. In June of 1975, 30 years ago, Reverend Westmoreland answered the call and began sharing his ministry with the members of Tusculum Hills Baptist Church.

It is my privilege today to join with those members and to thank him for his appreciation of the congregation, for his guidance he has given the congregation and the inspiration that he has given not only to the congregation but also to our entire community. We thank Reverend Westmoreland for his continued service, and I thank the Members of this body for joining me in honoring him.

#### THE ISSUE OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we are going to take up a bill this morning that would greatly expand Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, and that is the issue this morning, the issue of Federal funding for this process. The question is, are we

going to use taxpayer dollars for destruction of human embryos in order to further a certain line of research?

President Bush in 2001 outlined his policy. There are 78 stem cell lines available at the National Institutes of Health available for study. Today's bill would in fairness expand those lines but would do so at the expense of human embryos that would be human embryos destroyed with taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, there is no prohibition on any couple who has an embryonic at an IVF clinic, at a reproductive endocrinologist clinic, who wishes to donate that embryo to a private lab for development into a stem cell line. That can happen today. There is no such prohibition.

But, Mr. Speaker, the issue today is whether or not we are going to use taxpayer dollars to fund that process. I believe the President had it right in 2001. It was correct to put parameters and boundaries around this research.

#### URGING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT FEDERAL FUNDING OF STEM CELL AND CORD BLOOD RESEARCH

(Mr. COOPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, if Members are interested in finding a cure for Parkinson's disease, diabetes, cancer, and many other of the dread diseases that we face, please vote for this stem cell bill today and please vote for the cord blood bill today. They need to vote for both.

The narrow issue may seem whether we expand federally funded research into embryonic stem cell work, but I think a better way to view the issue is whether we allow the continual discarding of embryos from IVF clinics or whether we allow those to be used for productive and life-giving research. This is a very important moment for this House. I would urge all of my colleagues to do the right thing for the future of our kids and grandkids because this research needs to be conducted. It needs to be conducted with Federal support. It needs to be conducted here in America.

There was a break-through just last week in South Korea. Are we going to send our loved ones overseas in order to get this lifesaving research? We should do it here.

#### URGING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2520 AND H.R. 810, STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. CASTLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I just left a press conference; and four of the speakers there spoke about their diseases, none of which could be cured by

adult stem cell research: a form of cancer, Parkinson's, juvenile diabetes, and a person who is a paraplegic.

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that every single one of us has many constituents who have been to our offices over the years who have had these problems and have come to our offices for help. This is not the time to allow bad science or ideology to get in the way of doing what is right for the people of this country and of the world. There are 110 million people in the United States of America who potentially could be helped by embryonic stem cell research.

I have just been going through what some of the experts have said. One said: "Umbilical cord and embryonic stem cells are not in any way interchangeable," David Scadden, co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

The National Institutes of Health said: "Human embryonic stem cells are thought to have much greater developmental potential than adult stem cells. This means that embryonic stem cells may be pluripotent, that is, able to give rise to cells found in all tissues of the embryo except for germ cells rather than being merely multipotent."

"The bottom line, as far as I'm concerned, is we just don't know at this point what each can do, and we ought to be investigating both," Dr. Joanne Kutzberg at Duke University.

One expert after another has said that there is tremendous potential there. Let us not let it go to waste. Vote "yes" on both of these bills.

#### AGAINST FORCING PRO-LIFE COMMUNITY TO FUND EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I have enormous respect for the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and for the sincerity of his purpose in bringing forward legislation today that would fund the destruction of human embryos for the purpose of scientific research with Federal tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I am not a scientist. I do know that there have been more than 60 successful treatments using adult stem cells; there have been zero treatments developed using embryonic stem cells.

But let us be clear today about this debate. Embryonic stem cell research today, despite my objection and the objection of tens of millions of pro-life Americans, embryonic stem cell research is legal in America today. It goes on using private dollars every day. The debate on the floor today that the gentleman from Delaware just referred to, his legislation has to do with using Federal tax dollars to fund research that involves the destruction of human embryos. I believe it is morally wrong to destroy human embryos for the purposes of research, but I believe it is